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## ML's 2nd Lt. selected for Air Force soccer camp

by Katherine Gleason, AFRL Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio — When the Air Force women's soccer team takes the field for the Armed Forces Championship on May 8th, 2nd Lt. Laura Stearns hopes to be among the competitors.

Stearns was one of 20 Air Force women selected to participate in the 2002 All Air Force Women's Soccer Trial Camp. The camp is being held April 20 – May 7, at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. Players selected to the Air Force team will train and compete throughout the month of May.

Stearns currently works as an acquisition manager for the Air Force Research Laboratory's Materials and Manufacturing Directorate. She also serves as an alternate unit environmental coordinator and will soon begin managing contracts.

She began playing soccer at 13 and continued through college. She competed four years at the NCAA Division I level at Robert Morris University, Moon Township, Pa. Her primary position is sweeper, but she also plays midfielder.

"I'm very excited about this opportunity," Stearns said. "This was something that I set out to do, and it's great that my goal is coming true. I'm really looking forward to meeting new people and seeing some different bases."

In order to prepare for the camp, Stearns plans to focus on running and ball skills. All invitees were encouraged to report to camp in good physical condition.

Also selected from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base was 2nd Lt. Polly Sandness, who works for ASC.

The team will begin competition with the Armed Forces Championships, May 8-16, in Ft. Eustis, Va. From May 17-23, the team will stay at Ft. Eustis and train for the Conseil International du Sport Militaire Championships, to be held May 24-June 2, in Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

The Armed Forces Sports Council added women's soccer to its programs in 1998. Since that time, the Air Force team has enjoyed a great deal of success—winning the Armed Forces Championship in 1999 and 2001.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is the first assignment for Stearns, who completed Officer Training School in Nov. 2001. @



**GETTING HER KICKS** — 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Laura Stearns has been selected to participate in the 2002 all Air Force Women's Soccer Trial Camp. Stearns is an acquisition manager from the Air Force Research Laboratory's Materials and Manufacturing Directorate. (Photo courtesy of Stearns)